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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister has not given the answer to my question. I asked whether it was Mr. Manicka Naicker who was responsible for the tampering of accounts and books and other documents. If that were not so, how did the Government consider that the punishment was not sufficient for him? "

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I do not think you need worry this Minister any further about this question. I am sure he has not gone into all the records."

SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether on the request of Mr. Manicka Naicker the Collector advanced the enquiry from 16th to 11th for the mere reason that the Collector was going to hand over charge on the 16th? Is it justifiable for a Collector to favour a certain person by advancing the enquiry and finishing the case? "

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are we to understand that the present Ministry is not responsible for what had taken place and they will not be responsible for what takes place in future? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—" Certainly not."

Assessment of sales tax by Assistant Commercial Tax officers.

* 69 *Q.*—SRI O. P. RAMASWAMI REDDIAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Commercial Tax Officer, South Arcot, has instructed the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers that each of them should secure a fresh assessment each day and increase the tax of the present assessees and that consequently the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers are each day assessing to tax people who have no assessable turn-over and people are unnecessarily harassed?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" The answer is in the negative."

Power to grant poverty certificates to members of the Legislature.

* 70 *Q.*—ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government propose to empower the members of the Legislature to grant poverty certificates to poor students who deserve concession in respect of school fees?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" This question was considered by Government before and they came to the conclusion that it is advisable to restrict the power to issue certificates to persons over whom the Government has official or departmental control."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. Minister think that gazetted officers are in a position to know the conditions of people with regard to poverty and riches and is it possible for ordinary people to approach these persons? "

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" It must be possible for officers to get all the information either by themselves or from their subordinate officers. It is certainly always open to an individual to go to any officer."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does not the Hon. Minister think that members of this Legislature are people who can be entrusted with this responsibility? "

THE HON SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I think it is better that this onerous task is not taken by the legislators themselves. This matter was considered and it was found advisable to restrict the power to officers over whom there is departmental or official control."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" On what grounds it was considered advisable? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" On a previous occasion in 1940, when the matter was considered it was found that there has been some abuse in the issue of certificates by non-officials—I do not want to give out the names—and so, later the Government ordered that only officers over whom the Government had control should be vested with such powers."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Have not officers in other branches of administration abused their powers? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" Perhaps there have been some cases. I do not know of any. But it is certainly a great responsibility on non-officials and therefore it is better for them not to undertake the responsibility."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Is it not advisable to make an exception in the rules? Simply because a few non-officials abuse their power and similarly some officers also have abused their powers, it is a common factor; is it the G.C.M. or L.C.M.? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" The common factor is not same. In the one case, the Department cannot proceed against the persons concerned while in the other case of Government servants, official action can be taken."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Does the Hon. the Minister for Law know that it is difficult for poor people to approach these gazetted officers and get poverty certificates?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I do not think so. Under this Government, it ought not to be and it will not be."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Are not the members of the Legislature more approachable by the poor people with whom they come into contact? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" That is so."

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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" That being the case, why not hon. Members of the Legislature allowed to grant poverty certificates?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I have already answered this question more than once."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that in this matter officers of the lowest rank are approached by the people?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" No, Sir. Certain qualifications are prescribed for these officers, for instance, they should be officers not lower than the officers of the rank of Deputy Tahsildars or Sub-Magistrates."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Does not the Hon. Minister think that the Deputy Tahsildars' position is high enough for this purpose?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not properly understood the Minister. He says, he can punish him whereas he cannot punish you."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, Government can punish anybody who abuses his power."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If you like to get under this power, Government will have no objection."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" I wish to know whether Government have so far punished any official for having abused his powers?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I have not been so long in office to answer this. If the hon. Member wants, I shall make an investigation."

Alleged corruption in Textile department.

* 71 *Q.*—C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received copies of memoranda sent by the Trichinopoly Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Piecegoods Merchants' Association regarding the existence of corruption in Textile department and among merchant class; and

(*b*) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) The Government have received a memorandum from the Madras Piecegoods Merchants' Association. No memorandum appears to have been received from the Trichy Chamber of Commerce.

" (*b*) Some vague references were made in the memorandum regarding corruption in the Textile Control Department and among the merchant class. No action could be in the absence of definite allegations."